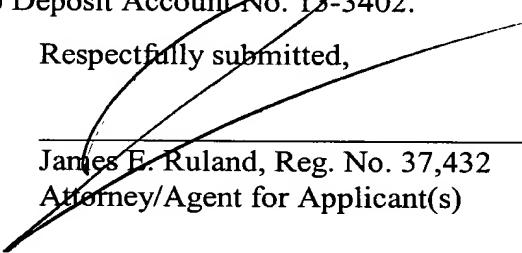


**REMARKS**

The principle purpose of this amendment is to add claims and clarify that the claimed pharmaceutical composition can optionally include other components, such as one or more active ingredients besides 17- $\beta$ -estradiol, ethinylestradiol, or a mixture thereof. Hence, these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims.

Applicants do not believe any fees are due for filing this paper. However, if the Examiner concludes otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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